

Kneel, stand, sit, stand, sit, stand, go for a walk, kneel, sit, stand ... why are Catholics always on the go? Even the priest begins the Mass from outside and processes to the altar.

As in much of the Church's liturgy, what we are doing is intentionally symbolic.

### We are a Pilgrim Church on the move!

At the Last Supper (*John 14*), Jesus tells his disciples that he goes to prepare a place for them with his Father. Our home is not here, but in heaven.



At the tomb, the angels remind the women what Jesus had told them. You will not find Jesus here. He is not dead. He goes to prepare a place for us.

The pilgrimage of Abraham and Joshua to the Promised Land, Moses leading the Exodus of slaves from Egypt, King David's joyful procession into Jerusalem with the Ark of the Covenant, the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, followed by suffering on the road to

Calvary – in both old and New Testaments, God's chosen are always on the move.



### Processions remind us we are pilgrims

We are God's people, and as we live our particular place in the history of salvation, we

also are called to be a people "on the move". Our destination is not among the dead. We follow Jesus to the place he has prepared for us in heaven, with God our Father.

### Luke 24:1-12

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had accompanied Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.

While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."

Then the women remembered Jesus' words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the Apostles.

These words seemed to the Apostles an idle tale, and they did not believe the women. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.



Through his death and resurrection, Jesus has become our Light in the darkness, the Way to our heavenly home.

For our journey, He leaves us his Word, our adoption through Baptism, and his life-giving Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

### What is Jesus telling me?

**I love you.  
I gave my life to save you.  
And now I am living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen, and free you.**

**Do I feel saved? Why or why not?**

**Am I willing to accept that salvation is a gift freely given by Jesus and cannot be earned by me?**

**How do I respond to his gift?  
What does that look like today, tomorrow, the next day?**

## The Easter Vigil Liturgy

Since our Lord died on Good Friday, we have been waiting in anticipation. Now the **Vigil Mass** begins, after dusk, the beginning of the Sabbath, the most beautiful and solemn Mass of the year. Where an ordinary Mass has two main parts, Word and Eucharist, the Easter Vigil has four.

Lucernarium or Service of Light	Liturgy of the Word	Baptismal Liturgy	Liturgy of the Eucharist
We begin outside in darkness, and with sacred fire bless the new <b>Paschal Candle</b> , sign of Christ, Light of the World. We will share this light with each other, following the candle into a dark church, where we will hear the <b>Exsultet</b> or Easter Proclamation.	From Creation to the times of Abraham, Moses, and David; from Exile to Resurrection; the <b>Scriptures</b> tonight will recount God's saving deeds throughout history, his faithfulness and his plan for us. We have not heard it through the 40 days of Lent, and now the <b>Alleluia</b> returns to hail the Gospel.	The priest recalls the regenerative action of <b>water</b> in the Scriptures as he blesses new water for the baptismal font. Tonight the Church joyfully welcomes the newly initiated through <b>Baptism</b> and Confirmation, and we join them by renewing our own baptismal vows.	All of the preparation of Lent has led us to this moment of praise and thanksgiving, where God's saving action is made present for us in the offering of His Only Son, <b>our Lord Jesus Christ</b> . 

**Spend 4 1/2 minutes.** Introduce your children to the symbols and liturgy of the Easter Vigil Mass in this wonderful video (also available on the Faith Formation page at [www.nelsondiocese.org](http://www.nelsondiocese.org)). Included are tips for families wanting to celebrate this Mass with young children.

## Pilgrims on the Move

We are pilgrims, only on earth for a time. Our real destination is heaven, to be with God who loves us very much and has prepared a place for us. In heaven there will be no hunger, no sadness and no pain – only love and great joy! Draw in the trailer what you would like to take to heaven with you.

